

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling at least one computing element with a universal console (UC), comprising:
 - storing at least one user preference ~~a user's preferences~~ for the UC ~~universal console~~;
 - selecting a computing element to control with the UC;
 - receiving by the UC a canonical user interface (UI) representation of the computing element's UI wherein the canonical UI representation is pre-defined for the computing element;
 - instantiating a concrete UI by the UC taking into account the stored at least one user preference ~~user preferences~~;
 - selecting at least one action-command to be carried out by the computing element; and
 - transmitting to the computing element data associated with said at least one action-command using a remote procedure call mechanism.
2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting at least one action-command includes requesting information about the state of said at least one computing element.
3. (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising interacting with at least one group hierarchy to obtain data in connection with said selected at least one action-command to be carried out by the computing element.
4. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said storing includes storing data indicating at least one disability of the user.
5. (original) A method according to claim 1, further including carrying out said action-command by said computing element.
6. (original) A method according to claim 1, further including receiving by the UC notifications from the computing element.

7. (original) A method according to claim 6, wherein said notifications include at least one of an error message, warning message, status update message and state change.
8. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation is formatted according to an XML stream.
9. (original) A method according to claim 1, further including requesting a list of available devices that may be controlled by UC.
10. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein communications between said UC and said computing element are made via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP).
11. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said computing element is one from the group of a computing device and an application.
12. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said remote procedure call mechanism makes calls according to Simple Object Activation Protocol (SOAP).
13. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter for choosing one element a from a set A .
14. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting a subset A' from a set A .
15. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting one from the group of True/False, Off/On, OK/Cancel and Yes/No.
16. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting an integer n in the range n_1 through n_2 , with increment δ .

17. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting a real number x in the range x_1 through x_2 , with increment δ .
18. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter type for an arbitrary string s .
19. (original) A method according to claim 18, wherein said arbitrary string s is to be selected from a suggestion set of strings S .
20. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter type for the modification of a given first string s , resulting in a second string s' .
21. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter type for ordering the elements of set A into A' .
22. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter type for pairing set A elements with set B elements.
23. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a group construct that contains at least one of commands and subgroups.
24. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a command construct that specifies at least one action to send to the controlled element that will carry out the action-command.
25. (original) A method according to claim 24, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a description of the parameters associated with the at least one action.

26. (original) A computer readable medium bearing computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 1.

27. (original) A modulated data signal carrying computer executable instructions for use in implementing the method of claim 1.

28-41. (canceled)

42. (currently amended) A computer system wherein a user controls at least one computing element, said system comprising:

at least one computing element each having a pre-defined canonical user interface (UI) description associated therewith;

a universal console (UC) for controlling said at least one computing element and storing user preferences therein;

wherein a computing element of said at least one computing element communicates its associated canonical UI to said UC;

wherein said UC generates a concrete UI description from said canonical UI and said stored user preferences; and

wherein a user thereafter utilizes said UC to control said computing element via said concrete UI by selecting at least one action-command.

43. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said selecting at least one action-command includes requesting information about the state of said at least one computing element.

44. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein a user of said UC interacts with at least one group hierarchy to obtain data in connection with said selected at least one action-command to be carried out by the computing element.

45. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said storage of user preferences includes the storage of data indicating at least one disability of the user.

46. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said at least one computing element carries out said at least one action-command.
47. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said UC receives notifications from the at least one computing element.
48. (original) A computer system according to claim 47, wherein said notifications include at least one of an error message, warning message, status update message and state change.
49. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description is formatted according to an XML stream.
50. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said selecting at least one action-command includes requesting a list of available devices that may be controlled by UC.
51. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein communications between said UC and said computing element are made via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP).
52. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said computing element is one from the group of a computing device and an application.
53. (previously presented) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said remote procedure call mechanism makes calls according to Simple Object Activation Protocol (SOAP).
54. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter for choosing one element a from a set A .
55. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter for selecting a subset A' from a set A .

56. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter for selecting one from the group of True/False, Off/On, OK/Cancel and Yes/No.
57. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter for selecting an integer n in the range n_1 through n_2 , with increment δ .
58. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter for selecting a real number x in the range x_1 through x_2 , with increment δ .
59. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter type for an arbitrary string s .
60. (original) A computer system according to claim 59, wherein said arbitrary string s is to be selected from a suggestion set of strings S .
61. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter type for the modification of a given first string s , resulting in a second string s' .
62. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter type for ordering the elements of set A into A' .
63. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter type for pairing set A elements with set B elements.

64. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a group construct that contains at least one of commands and subgroups.

65. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a command construct that specifies at least one action to send to the controlled element that will carry out the action-command.

66. (original) A computer system according to claim 65, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description of the parameters associated with the at least one action.

67. (new) A computer readable medium comprising computer executable instructions for controlling at least one computing element with a universal console (UC), comprising:

means for storing at least one user preference for the UC;

means for selecting a computing element to control with the UC;

means for receiving by the UC a canonical user interface (UI) representation of the computing element's UI wherein the canonical UI representation is pre-defined for the computing element;

means for instantiating a concrete UI by the UC taking into account the stored at least one user preference;

means for selecting at least one action-command to be carried out by the computing element; and

means for transmitting to the computing element data associated with said at least one action-command.